



News from the City of Compton

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MEDIA ADVISORY

COMPTON TEEN TAKES OFF TO BREAK WORLD RECORD FLYING CROSS COUNTRY

WHEN: Monday, June 29, 2009
5:00 am to 7:00 am

WHERE: Compton Municipal Airport
901 W. Alondra Blvd.
Compton, CA 90220

WHAT: Fifteen-year-old Kimberly Anyadike (on-ya-DEE-kay) is planning to set a world record by piloting a single-engine Cessna from Compton, CA to Newport News, VA. The Compton teen will be the youngest African American female to pilot a transcontinental flight. A pilot since age 12, Kimberly is in an afterschool program offered by Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum (TAM).

WHO: Flying with Kimberly Anyadike will be safety pilot, Ronell Norman, currently an air cargo pilot, who is a TAM program graduate, and Levi Thornhill, the Tuskegee airman for whom the plane she is flying is named. (All of TAM's red-tail Cessna's are named for Tuskegee Airmen, who gained fame as fighter and bomber airmen during World War II.)

HOW: Kim expect to arrive in Newport News on July 5 after several stops along the way for refueling and to meet Tuskegee Airmen at each stop. This is roundtrip flight, although Kim hopes to fly to Washington, DC before returning to Compton.

WHY: The TAM-organized trip, sponsored by various supporting organizations, is designed to break a world record and call attention to TAM, which provides scholarships and afterschool programs for at-risk youth. TAM provides a safe haven, as well as educational programs, training in life skills and an opportunity to work and develop alternatives to self-destructive behavior. And flying lessons, of course. Five of TAM youth, including Kimberly's sister Kelly, have broken world records in flight.

VISUALS: Kimberly, her passengers and ground crew, headed by TAM founder and pilot Robin Petgrave, will be preparing the small airplane for the first leg of her journey to Phoenix, AZ. Promptly at 7:00 am, Kimberly and passengers will take off, heading east. Be witness to a record-shattering flight.